

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 PC-01 AID-05 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 L-03

H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 /073 W

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P 100923Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 514

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 9345

FOR AF/E BARRETT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJ: FURTHER DIFFICULTIES OF SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS (SDA)

REF: ADDIS ABABA 8994

1. ON AUGUST 9 DR. FLAIZ AND DR. HOLM OF SDA/ETHIOPIA DISCUSSED WITH ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR DIFFICULTIES THEY ARE EXPERIENCING WITH SDA PRINING PRESS. SDA PRINING PRESS IS FACING UNION ISSUE SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH SDA HOSPITAL PREVIOUSLY EXPERIENCED. ACCORDING TO FLAIZ, COURT WHICH IS HEARING CASE WILL DELIVER DECISION AUG 10. THIS DECISION WILL ORDER SDA TO RECOGNIZE UNION AND GEGIN NEGOTIATIONS IMMEDIATELY. OWING TO SDA RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, SDA/ETHIOPIA PRESIDENT, ATO BEKELE HAY (ETHIOPIAN NATIONAL), WILL THEN REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE UNION OR TO NEGOTIATE WITH IT, FOLLOWING WHICH HE MAY WELL BE ARRESTED AND SENTENCED UP TO SIX MONTHS IMPRISONMENT. SDA LEGAL COUNSEL ATO SIMBATA (LAST NAME UNKNOWN) MAY ALSO BE ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED FOR THE SAME REASONS. WHEN ASKED WHY THEY DID NOT CLOSE DOWN THE PRINTING PRESS OPERATION, FLAIZ RESPONDED THAT ACCORDING TO THEIR LEGAL COUNSEL IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO CLOSE A BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT AFTER THE EMPLOYEES HAVE BEGUN FOR FORM A UNION. (FYI: EMBASSY IS NOT CERTAIN OF

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THE ACCURACY OF THIS VIEW; NEVERTHELESS, ADVENTISTS BELIEVE

IT TO BE THE CASE BASED ON THE LEGAL ADVICE THEY HAVE BEEN PROVIDED. END FYI)

2. FLAIZ REQUESTED THAT FOLOWING MESSAGE BE SENT TO ROBERT PEARSON, GENRAL CONFERENCE OF SDA, 6840 EASTERN AVE, NE, WASHINGTON DC

QUOTE ATO BEKELE HAY NEEDS LEGAL AND MORAL ASSISTANCE IMMEDIATELY. HE IS THREATENED WITH POSSIBLE JAIL SENTENCE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS OWING TO LABOR PROBLEMS AT ADVENTIST PRINTING PRESS. HISPITAL PROBLEM AT ADVENTIST PRINTING PRESS. HISPITAL PROBLEM AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES RELATED TO MEDICAL WORK STILL UNSOLVED. SUGGEST DUNCAN EVA PLUS LEGAL COUNSEL COME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE ADVISE WATSON IN BEIRUT. UNQUOTE

3. IN LIGHT OF GENERALLY DETERIORATING SITUATIO FOR ADVENTITS, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE FOREGOING MESSAGE COMMUNICATED TO MR. PEARSON ASAP.
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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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